Offers Bill to Give Arsenal Land to State

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) has introduced a bill which would authorize the federal government to give to the state of Illinois the 2,400-acre Des Plaines public hunting and refuge area for wildlife conservation and recreational use. The area is in Will county.

The property, part of the Joliet Arsenal, was turned over to the General Services administration for disposal several months ago, after being declared surplus by the Army.

The Joliet Association of Commerce and other groups have urged that the land be sold for industrial development, while sportsmen's organizations have strongly contended that it should be retained as a conservation and wildlife area.

The land includes three miles of frontage on the Illinois waterway. The Santa Fe railroad has offered to purchase it for industrial development at a price of $500 an acre. The GSA notified Joliet A. of C. leaders recently that bids will be asked on the property, to determine its value for "uses other than conservation."

Sen. Douglas is expected to visit Will county in February to inspect the property.